

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0029] A gravel packing method and apparatus are described where to set the packer, a ball is dropped to a seat that it isolated from the effects of formation pressures when trying to set the packer. This is accomplished by isolation of the gravel pack outlet port when setting the packer and locating the ball seat in a position where the effects of formation pressure are irrelevant. Additionally, by positioning the evacuation ports above a seal bore in the screen extension during circulation to deposit gravel and further putting check valves in the evacuation ports, the evacuation step after circulation can be accomplished without having to reposition the crossover.

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